

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 SIG-03 MMO-01 MCE-00 PM-05  
CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15  
SP-02 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00  
INRE-00 /066 R

DRAFTED BY DOD/ISA: MAJOR INGRAM  
APPROVED BY EUR: G S VEST  
EUR/RPM: J FROEBE  
DOD: AMBASSADOR KOMER (SUBS)  
H: T WESTON (INFO)  
EUR/CE: R C BARKLEY  
EUR/CE: S MKLINGAMAN  
EUR/P:FJSEIDNER

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O R 052124Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
INFO USMISSION USNATO  
ALL NATO CAPITALS

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BONN: PLEASE PASS TO SENATOR BYRD AND DAS GOODBY

E.O. 11652:

TAGS: MPOL, MMOL, MILI, GW, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF 120MM TANK GUN PROGRAM

REF: (A) STATE 167260 DTG 302323Z JUN 78  
(B) BONN 12148 DTG 03LL30 JUL 78

1. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON FOLLOWING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM  
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GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON TANK GUN.

2. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION REGARDING FUNDING FOR THE 120MM  
GUN PROGRAM INVOLVES BOTH REQUEST FOR REPROGRAMMING OF FY78  
FUNDS AND REQUEST FOR FY79 FUNDS.

A.) BOTH THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE (HASC) AND THE

SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE (SASC) HAVE APPROVED THE FY79 REQUESTS. THE HASC APPROVED THE INITIAL REQUEST OF \$8.1M; THE SASC APPROVED THE AMENDED REQUEST OF \$45.6M. THE TWO COMMITTEES WILL WORK TO IRON OUT THE DIFFERENCES.

B.) BOTH THE HASC AND THE SASC HAVE APPROVED THE FY78 REPROGRAMMING REQUEST, BUT WITH RESERVATIONS. THE HASC STATED THAT ITS APPROVAL DID NOT IMPLY APPROVAL OF THE COMPLETE PROGRAM PROPOSED BY THE ARMY. IT WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE 120MM GUN PROGRAM NOT INTERFERE WITH THE

XM-1 PRODUCTION SCHEDULE OR THE DEVELOPMENT OF 105MM GUN AMMUNITION GROWTH POTENTIAL. IT QUESTIONED THE PROPOSED PLAN TO DEVELOP AN AMERICANIZED VERSION OF THE GERMAN PRODUCTION ROUNDS AS AN INTERIM ROUND FOR THE 120MM GUN. IT STATED ITS BELIEF THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROVISIONS IN THE LICENSING AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD RESTRICT THE ABILITY OF THE US TO SELL OR COPRODUCE A COMPLETE XM-1 TANK AND GUN TO ANY NATO NATION. THE SASC, WHILE APPROVING THE REPROGRAMMING, DISAPPROVED OF THE PROPOSED SOURCE OF SOME OF THE REPROGRAMMING FUNDS BUT DID NOT PREVENT THE USE OF THE SOURCE OF THE FUNDS. \$6.3M OF THE FUNDS ARE PLANNED TO COME FROM A CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED FY78 PROGRAM TO USE XM-1 FIRE CONTROL TECHNOLOGY ON THE M60A3 TANK.

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3. THE HAC ACTION IS CONTAINED IN REF A. DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COMMITTEE INDICATE THAT THE ACTION IS NOT INTENDED AS OPPOSITION TO THE 120MM GUN, PER SE, BUT THE COMMITTEE WANTS TO AVOID "ANOTHER ROLAND" WITH GREAT ADDED EXPENSE TO "AMERICANIZE" ANOTHER EUROPEAN SYSTEM. THIS CONCERN ALSO APPEARS IN THE HASC RESERVATIONS. ADDITIONALLY, THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES THAT THE ARMY HAD NOT ADEQUATELY JUSTIFIED THE PLANNED EXPENDITURE OF \$171,500,000 FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION OF THE 120MM GUN. AT ISSUE IS NOT THE 120MM GUN ITSELF BUT THE ARMY PLAN TO DEVELOP AND INTEGRATE THE GUN, INCLUDING OVERALL COST ESTIMATES.

4. DOD IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE HAC, WITH THE AIM OF GAINING APPROVAL FOR THE REPROGRAMMING OF FY78 FUNDS, AND THE ARMY IS REVIEWING ITS PLAN AND COSTING FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION. DOD IS ALSO CONSIDERING THE RESERVATIONS OF THE HASC AND SASC.

5. OUR PROGNOSIS FOR THE OVERALL 120MM GUN PROGRAM REMAINS GOOD. NEVERTHELESS, IF THE HAC ACTION IS NOT REVERSED, THE EFFECT ON THE PROGRAM WILL BE TO DELAY

EXPENDITURES FOR THE PROGRAM UNTIL FY79. THE EFFECT OF THE HAC, HASC, AND SASC RESERVATIONS WILL DEPEND UPON THE COURSE OF ACTION ADOPTED BY THE DOD IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONGRESS.

6. IN RESPONSE TO ANY QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

THE HAC ACTION WAS NOT IN OPPOSITION TO THE 120MM TANK GUN BUT WAS MOTIVATED BY A CONCERN FOR THE COST OF THE PROPOSED AMERICANIZATION OF THE GUN AND AMMUNITION.

DOD IS PRESENTLY DISCUSSING THE ISSUES WITH THE HAC, AS WELL AS RELATED ISSUES WITH THE HASC AND SASC.  
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DOD EXPECTS THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE HAC ACTION WILL BE A LEANER AND IMPROVED ARMY PLAN FOR DEVELOPMENT AND INTEGRATION OF THE 120MM GUN, WHICH IN TURN WILL RESULT IN INCREASED CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE PROGRAM OVERALL.

7. FOR CODEL BYRD. WHILE WE OBVIOUSLY ARE NOT INTERESTED IN GENERATING DISCUSSION ON THIS ISSUE, IF SUBJECT IS RAISED IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS WITH GERMANS AND OTHERS WE HOPE YOU CAN REASSURE THEM ALONG ABOVE LINES. VANCE

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